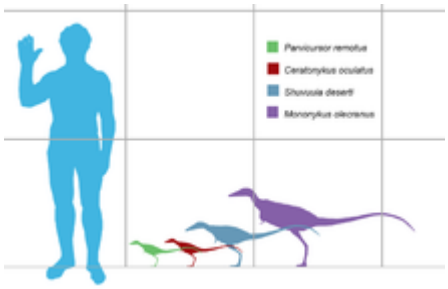
Parvicursor

Parvicursor (meaning "small runner") is a genus of tiny maniraptoran dinosaur with long slender legs for fast running. At only about 39 cm (c. 15 in) from snout to end of tail, and 162 grams (5.7 ounces) in weight, it is one of the smallest non-avian dinosaurs known from an adult specimen.[1]



Size of *P. remotus* (green) compared to other small alvarezsaurids

Like other members of the family Alvarezsauridae, the forelimbs of *Parvicursor* were short and stubby, with hands all but completely reduced to a single large claw, possibly useful for opening tough termite mounds or other types of digging. It is unlikely that the claw could have served much for defense, as it was short and not adapted for flexible movements — it is more likely it would do as the animal's name implies: *cursor* means *runner*.

Parvicursor is known from the late Campanian-age Barun Goyot Formation of Khulsan, Mongolia, dated at approximately 72 million years old. The type species, *P. remotus*, is only known from one incomplete specimen, mostly pelvis and hind legs. Close relatives include *Shuvuuia* and *Mononykus*, and together with these it is classified in the alvarezsaurid subfamily Parvicursorinae.

There may be a second, yet-unnamed, species of *Parvicursor*. Two specimens of tiny alvarezsaurids were described by Suzuki *et al.* in 2002. These authors considered the specimens to be juvenile *Shuvuuia*, which lived in the same formation.[2] However, a study by Nick Longrich and Phil Currie in 2009 suggested that several characters of the skeleton, including fused wrist and pelvic bones, indicated that these specimens were in fact adults of a tiny alvarezsaurid species. A phylogenetic analysis found that they grouped together with *Parvicursor*, and the authors provisionally referred them to *Parvicursor sp.* pending further study.[3]

It has been suggested that *Linhenykus* may be a junior synonym of *Parvicursor*.[4]

Parvicursor

Temporal range:

Late Cretaceous, 72 Ma

Pre€ € O S D C P T J K PgN

Scientific classification	
Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Clade:	Dinosauria
Clade:	Saurischia
Clade:	Theropoda
Family:	†Alvarezsauridae
Subfamily:	†Parvicursorinae
Genus:	†*Parvicursor* Karhu & Rautian, 1996
Species:	†***P. remotus***
Binomial name	
†***Parvicursor remotus*** Karhu & Rautian, 1996	

References

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Sources

- Karhu, A.A. and Rautian, A.S. (1996). "A new family of Maniraptora (Dinosauria: Saurischia) from the Late Cretaceous of Mongolia". *Paleontological Journal* Russian Academy of Sciences 30(5): 583-592.

External links

- *Parvicursor* (https://web.archive.org/web/20090707122027/http://www.palaeos.com/Vertebrates/Units/350Aves/350.250.html#Parvicursor) from Palaeos (technical)

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